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ON PAGE 10

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT  
18 February 1985

## New U.N. Envoy: A Shift in Style

President Reagan dramatically changed the style but not the substance of the U.S. presence at the United Nations with his selection of a replacement for U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick.

Named on February 8 to succeed the feisty, outspoken Kirkpatrick was Gen. Vernon Walters, a smooth behind-the-scenes international negotiator who can bargain with cabdrivers or career diplomats in eight languages.

White House aides emphasized that the switch in ambassadors would not alter the administration's tough "U.S. first" approach to the often controversial organization. That has included resistance to Third World financial and ideological demands at the U.N., and a limit on U.S. financing for some U.N. projects and agencies deemed contrary to American interests.

Walters will hold cabinet rank, which insures greater access to the President, as have most previous U.N. Ambassadors. Secretary of State



Heading for the U.N.: Vernon Walters

George Shultz supported Walters but urged the job no longer carry cabinet rank to reduce confusion in foreign-policy leadership. Other officials wanted to downgrade the job to signal a lowered U.S. appraisal of the worth of the world body.

Walters, 68, was an Army officer for 35 years but never commanded a platoon in combat. He rose to the top echelon of government as an interpreter, negotiator and personal representative of five Presidents.

As a roving troubleshooter for Rea-

gan, the 6-foot-3-inch Walters has visited 100 nations since 1981, often logging 10,000 miles of travel a week. Earlier assignments took him to the showdown meeting in 1950 between President Truman and Gen. Douglas MacArthur, through South American riots with Vice President Nixon and into secret North Vietnamese peace negotiations with former Secretary of State Kissinger.

As deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, he refused to go along with White House efforts to suppress Watergate investigations in the early 1970s.

Both U.S. and foreign diplomats have praised Walters for his ability to find common ground with a wide range of people and to win the confidence of both allies and opponents—skills that will stand him in good stead at the U.N. □